

REMARKS

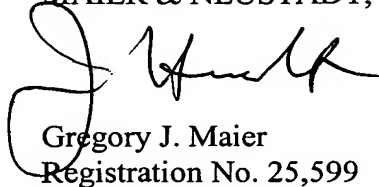
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

The foregoing amendments have been made to more fully protect Applicant's invention.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 6, please amend the paragraph at lines 6 to 23 as follows.

The primary difference between a single blade and a double blade trocar is the number of blades, which affect the resistance to penetration across the tissue. In the double blade embodiment the opening cut is a cross, while in the single blade it is a line. As a result, the dilation (i.e. degree of stretching of the tissue cut) is less in the case of a double blade cut than in the single blade cut. Since there will always be dilation in any trocar portal, one must review the advantages and disadvantages related to it. Highest dilation occurs when a smooth pointed conical trocar is used since there is no cut and the dialation is total. Some surgeons like that because it gives the best sealing and fixation about the portal with potentially minimum vascular injury, but it requires the highest penetration force and has other related traumatic effects plus risks of internal puncturing resulting from the high penetration force just before the instant when the front resistance ceases; i.e. a dreaded "plunge effect". Between the maximum dilation of the portal and the dilation resulting from a four cutting edge trocar of maximum edge width, there exist the two extremes, (more than four full width cutting edges are [rear] rare). These are the two extremes of portal opening. The requirements of good sealing and high dilation are opposite to the ease of penetration since dilation and ease of penetration are opposites. There is no clear way to objectively and quantitatively ascertain the best trocar tip design for a desired entry performance.

Page 16, please amend the paragraph at lines 21-29 as follows.

A quick review of the provided example locking system from the user viewpoint reveals that the operations include "arming" the trocar by pushing down on the button at the top of the handle at position 7' shown in FIG. 12, until it "snaps" down; then pushing the trocar against the skin and watching or listening to the position of the button as it slides towards [7'] 7" and then "snaps" to its initial position 7'. That will be the indication of having completed the penetration. If, for any reason, button 7 were pushed down accidentally, it could be reset to the "safe" condition by merely moving it in the direction to [7'] 7" and then releasing it. It should then get snap-locked at a high level in position 7', and could not be moved without first pushing it down.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 34-50 (new).